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PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

QUESTION OF BETTER ROADS

Not Alone Affects Farmer and Automobile, but is of Vital Importance to Everybody.

The good roads question is one which today is occupying the attention of every thinking man in the United States. This question does not affect alone the farmer or automobile, but is of vital importance to all of us, owing to the fact that every extension of the good roads movement and the completion of every new artery has resulted not only in a greater production of food stuffs in that particular section, but has cheapened them on account of the small cost of getting them into the market.

Although at the present time there are between 15,000 and 20,000 miles of improved roads in the United States, either under construction or proposed, no section of road is receiving the careful investigation or is being watched as closely by the road makers of the country and by good roads advocates, as is the 106-mile road which Gen. T. Coleman du Pont is constructing at his own expense through the state of Delaware.

General du Pont felt that any amount of money he might give for a road would be of far greater benefit and would have a far greater influence on the happiness and material prosperity of the people of his state than any other project he might select. To quote his own words: "My object in building the road is not only to provide a good highway where it is badly needed, but also to work out in a practical way a problem that will, if successful, revolutionize the building of roads in the United States. The problem is, how can a free country road be built to make it pay its original cost, cost of maintenance and a fair return on the money invested."

The solution of this problem as a result of his experience on the Delaware road, is a system of graduated assessments, so arranged that all who receive direct benefits from the road are to bear their share of its expense, at the outset, and will later be recompensed by rentals of the unused portions of the road itself.

Suppose, for instance, that this Delaware road was being constructed by this method, instead of being given by General du Pont. On the du Pont road some twenty-six acres of land have been condemned for every mile of road. Revenue from the road will be partially derived from trolley franchises, from water, telephone, telegraph and sewer right of way rentals and partially from the rental of that part of the twenty-six acres per mile which is not used for actual road construction.

As laid out, the du Pont road consists of some seven parts, although not all of them will be developed immediately, the idea being to increase the size of the road as the traffic becomes heavier. When completed the road will consist of a forty-foot strip in the middle, which will be given over to automobiles, and on either side of this forty-foot strip a fifteen-foot strip, which has been reserved for trolley lines. Beyond the trolley lines there will be thirty-foot roads for horse-drawn vehicles and heavy traffic. Adjoining each of these last-named roads will be dirt roads, fifteen feet wide, under which will be laid water pipes, sewers, telephone and telegraph conduits, etc., thus eliminating any necessity for tearing up the paved portion of the road.

ESTIMATES FOR THIS YEAR

Annual Appropriations by Government Indicate Strides Being Made in Road Improvement.

No better idea of the forward strides being made by the office of public roads can be had than from figures connected with the annual appropriations. The appropriation for the present fiscal year is \$41,400 more than for the preceding year, while the estimate for the fiscal year of 1913-1914 is \$134,120 more than the present allotment. One of the items mentioned in connection with the appropriation for the coming fiscal year is roadmaking investigation, for which work an increase of \$89,000 is asked. The present amount available for such work is \$75,000. The next highest increase is asked for road management, \$21,000, as but \$25,000 is available this year. The amount now ready for use in field experiments, \$20,000, the office would like doubled. Included in this list of necessary increases is one for salaries, thus placing the office of public roads on a par with practically all other branches of the government service that are striving to raise the pay of the government clerk. The appropriation asked for this is a raise from \$37,020 for the present year to \$54,400.

Combat Dusty Roadways. An English city is experimenting with granular calcium chloride to combat dusty roadways, applying about half a pound to the square yard.

LIVE STOCK



WARM SLOP BEST FOR HOGS

Helps to Break Down Feed Better and It Induces Better Circulation of Animal's Blood.

Whether intended for breeding hogs or for fattening hogs, it is better at this time of the year to mix the slop up with hot instead of cold water. Fattening hogs handle large quantities of feed and considerable energy is given off in the process of digestion which can be used for warming feed which is eaten without much waste, and yet even fattening hogs do better if their slop is warmed.

A great many of our best feeders, says the Farm, Stock and Home, now make it a practice to feed slop or at least considerable water up until the very last of the feeding process, and the majority of them warm the water they use. Warm water helps to break down the feed better, and it induces a better circulation of blood to the digestive tract than does cold water. Breeding stock that gets less feed has no surplus energy to spend in warming water, and if it is given cold slop, it must use energy that might be put to far better use to warm it. In other words, it is cheaper to use natural fuel than to use the fuel inside of the pig's body by the breaking down of food nutrients.

One of the great difficulties always encountered with breeding sows during the winter is to get them to drink sufficient water. They should drink a great deal of it, not alone because they need it for body functions, but also that they will be kept satisfied without eating so much dry feed as to make them overfat. Water fills without furnishing many nutrients.

Under ordinary conditions, as soon as water begins to get real cold, hogs refuse to drink much of it, and so they require a larger ration of other food before they are satisfied. If on the other hand the water is warmed and is mixed in sufficient quantity with their feed they will take it into their systems without the slightest objections and will be much better off for it.

The feed bill will also be smaller at the same time. Whether the slop is warmed for fattening stock or not, we would certainly advise that it be for the breeding stock. Where the herd is small, it is often feasible to warm the water for slop in the house, but in case of a large herd one of the various feed cookers on the market would no doubt best be procured.

COTSWOLD SHEEP IN FAVOR

Experience Proves Them to Be Better Shearers and Make Improvement—Use of Rape Urged.

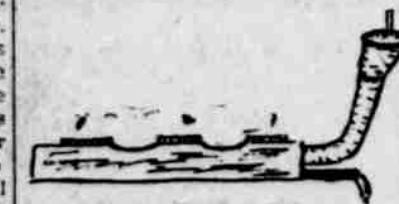
Men that think at all usually have a reason for doing things. Hence, when I began breeding Cotswold sheep I chose them not because my father bred them 40 years, but because from experience with other breeds they proved to be better shearers, produced more wool and made a lasting improvement upon fleeces where good rams were used. The time has come when every man should make the most of everything; therefore every breeder should or must have to obtain desired results.

Rape is of inestimable value and every man professing to be a shepherd should provide at least ten square rods of this forage for each sheep kept upon the farm, says a writer in an exchange. This crop furnishes splendid feed when all things are favorable, and indispensable feed in time of drouth. At the last cultivation of corn sow more rape, which provides a splendid place to wear lambs. This, together with oats and bran, helped a pair of lambs to tip the scales at 261 pounds at the age of five months.

HANDY PIG FEEDING TROUGH

Economical Plan Afforded by Placing Slops Across Top—Also Keeps Animals Orderly.

Feeding pigs from a trough having slops put across it at intervals is said to be a very economical plan. The liquid is poured into a funnel-shaped top spout, having the height to suit the feeder. The slops keep the



Handy Feeding Trough.

pigs orderly and prevent crowding. The pipe is intended to carry off any unnecessary liquid or water and is useful in cleaning the trough.

Keep Horses Well Shod. Horses are very much afraid of ice, writes O. J. McFarland in Practical Farmer, and it is cruel, as well as dangerous not to have them well shod in the winter.

SECRET OF GOOD FOOD

INDIVIDUALITY IN COOKING IS TO BE DESIRED.

Woman Who Puts Herself Into Her Work Is the One Whose Meals Are Palatable.

A prominent Englishman, commenting on us and our institutions, says that the food provided in the large hotels is as good as can be expected outside of a small restaurant.

It is a criticism that has more in it than seems, for if most of us were offered the choice of a meal at a large hotel or a small restaurant would we not take the large hotel? Yet the right kind of small restaurant would in all probability furnish us with a more palatable meal. For in the right kind of small restaurant one gets personal cookery. And delightful individuality in cooking is as much to be desired as in anything else. All the places that are famous for their cookery are famous because of some personality. They become known through their chef. They are spoken of as Oscar's, or Joseph's, or Mme. Gruyere's. It is the personality of Oscar, or Joseph, or Madame that is the sauce piquante of the cookery there.

It is this lack of personal cookery that makes the food offered in some restaurants and boarding houses so tasteless. It is as insipid as a person without any kind of individuality. In certain kinds of restaurants, from Maine to California, roast lamb tastes the same, and coffee is the same brown, insipid drink. The cook in these restaurants probably says "Lamb's lamb," and salts and peppers it mechanically, with her mind on something else, slams it into the oven, and thinks cooking is beastly work anyway, and she's going to get another job.

Whereas the cook who adds personality to her cooking studies her roast carefully, noting its weight and quality, dusts with pepper and salt thoughtfully, to get just the right quantity, adds a bit of this herb, a hint of that, watches it assiduously, bastes it frequently and sends it to the table with joy, knowing it is juicy and tender and has a flavor all its own.

She is putting herself into her work. She is expressing herself through her work. And isn't this more worth while, just for one's own sake, than to go expressionless?

Some of us look upon cooking as a menial and beneath us. And we do not care very much what kind of cooking we turn out. But if we are going to do it, why not put ourselves into it? Why not give it personality and piquancy? Why not let it become a joy in our circle, our village or our town? It is worth while to express our best selves in whatever medium we take up.

BARBARA BOYD.

Washing Vails.

Few women have success in washing white chiffon vails and scarfs, and attempt to clean them in various ways, but they can be washed successfully, and the method is very simple. Use water that is only tepid, not hot, and a pinch of borax to soften it, and then make a good suds with some good white soap, says the Ladies' World. Let the chiffon soak in this for about fifteen or twenty minutes and then squeeze it gently with the hands until quite clean, but never wring or twist it. Rinse through several waters, adding just a suspicion of blueing to the last water. Lay smoothly on a towel or clean cloth and press between the layers with a moderately hot iron before it is quite dry. Very hot irons or hot water will yellow white chiffon, and then, too, a too hot iron is apt to stick and pull the chiffon out of shape.

Cutting Expenses.

When eggs are scarce and high, in making doughnuts, boil and mash a good-sized potato, beat it in with the sugar and make the doughnuts as usual without any eggs. They will keep moist and good, says the Pictorial Review.

In making pumpkin or squash pies, in place of eggs roll crackers fine and use as much of them in bulk as you would of eggs. You could not tell the difference if you did not know it. When you want pudding for dinner and have no milk, try adding another egg and a few more raisins and use warm water in place of milk.

Creole Sauce.

Into a small saucepan put one tablespoonful of butter, one tablespoonful of finely-chopped onion, the same of green pepper, and cook slowly until the butter is deep brown, but not burned. Stand aside for five minutes; then add one tablespoonful of vinegar and one tablespoonful of freshly-grated horseradish; simmer for three minutes, add one teaspoonful of flour, stir until smooth; then gradually dilute with one cupful of concentrated tomatoes. Add salt and simmer five minutes.

For Children's Lunch Basket.

To make sponge cookies for the children's supper or lunch box, sift together in the mixing bowl one and one-half cups of flour, two teaspoonfuls baking powder, a quarter teaspoonful of salt, and one cupful of sugar. Break two eggs into a cup and fill the cup with cream or rich milk. Stir this in with the flour and sugar mixture, then beat hard for eight minutes. Turn into lightly greased gem pans and bake in a moderate oven about ten minutes.

FARM OF FORTY ACRES

Equipment, Management and Income of Small Place.

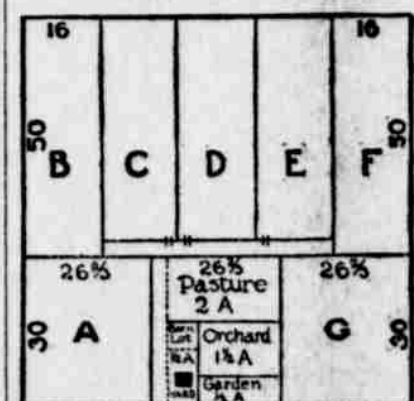
Convenient Scheme for Dividing Land into Five-Acre Tracts—One of These Utilized for Home-Steak and Garden.

(By W. J. SPILLMAN, Chief of United States Bureau of Farm Management.)

Mr. H. H. Mowry of the office of farm management, has been making a special study of the equipment, management and income of a large number of small fruit and truck farms, many of them run by people who have recently come from the city.

This study has given us somewhat a new point of view. In general these small farmers are not successful. This fact has led us to study the question more closely, and as a result a scheme for the management of a forty-acre farm is outlined below, which seems to be practicable.

Figure 1 shows a convenient scheme for subdividing forty acres to fit it for the cropping system to be outlined below. It will be observed that the forty acres are divided into eight five-acre tracts. One of these is set aside for what may be called the "home-stead." These five acres are at the



Forty-acre farm subdivided into eight five-acre tracts. This shows a convenient method of subdivision which gives access to the barn and barn lot. Tract H is set aside for what may be called the "home-stead." These five acres are at the

center on one side, and it is supposed that a public road passes this side of the tract.

Of these five acres half an acre is utilized for the house and yard and the barn and barn lot. Tract H is ample for what we have to raise. One-half acre is devoted to garden, one and one-half acres to orchard and the remaining two acres for a paddock into which to turn the stock for exercise.

By judicious management these two acres can also be made to furnish some pasture and some selling crops. The other seven five-acre tracts are to be devoted to a seven-year rotation. When this rotation is in full swing the crops on the farm for a given year will be as follows: Field A, potatoes; field B, three acres of cabbage and two acres of onions; field C, corn; field D, cowpeas; field E, corn; field F, clover; field G, clover.

The next year each of these crops would move to another field as follows: The potatoes would go to field G, which was in clover the year before. The cabbage and onions next year would go to field B. The corn on field C would go the next year to field B. Cowpeas in field D would go the next year to field C. The corn in field E would go to D, while E would be sown in clover and F remain in clover.

The next year each crop would move to another field in the same manner, so that each year potatoes are sown after second year clover, cabbage and onions are planted after potatoes, etc.

The potatoes, cabbage and onions on this farm would form the market crops. The two fields of corn, the field of cowpeas and the first year's seeding of clover would furnish twenty acres of forage for the live stock, while the second year clover would furnish pasture for the live stock during the summer.

In each of the two corn fields some winter grain, such as wheat or rye, could be sown early in August at the time when the corn is laid by, that is, when cultivation of the corn ceases. This wheat would furnish fall and winter pasture for the live stock.

In the corn field which is to be followed by clover the wheat would be turned over very early in the spring in preparation for sowing the clover. In the corn field which is to be followed by cowpeas the wheat could remain until the second year clover field is ready to turn stock on, at which time it might be plowed up and sown to cowpeas. We thus have pasture during the whole year in sections where the seasons permit winter pasturing.

In states that are too far north for the cowpeas, soy beans may be substituted for them, and in regions too far north for soy beans, oats can be used on this field, the other crops in the rotation remaining the same. Commercial fertilizers would be required for the potatoes, cabbage and onions. There is plenty of good literature published by the department of agriculture and by a good many of the state experiment stations relative to the cultivation and fertilization of potatoes, cabbage and onions, and the reader is referred to this literature for further information concerning the growing of these crops.

One fact to which I would call attention is that in the marketing of potatoes, cabbage and onions it is not necessary for the farmer to run to market every day for several weeks, as would be the case with most other kinds of truck crops, especially strawberries and tomatoes.

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